category are promoted from E-3 to E-4 in two year's time and officers belonging to SC/ST category are not promoted even after completion of three to four years in E-3;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what is the minimum eligibility period required for promotion from E—3 to E—4 for employees of general category and SC/ST category; and

(c) the number of officers promoted in two years' period from E-3 to E-4 in Corporate Office and Central Marketing Organisation (SAIL) during the years 1990 and 1991 and number of them who belong to SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the promotion policy of Steel Authority of India Limited, which is being followed in Corporate Office as well as Central Marketing Organisation, and applicable to both the general and SC/ST categories of executives, an officer must have a minimum service of 2 years in E-3 scale to be eligible to be considered for promotion to the E-4 scale. Promotions are given on the basis of performance appraisal ratings.

(c) Only one general category employee was promoted from E-3 to E-4 on completion of 2 years service in E-3, in the Corporate Office/Central Marketing Organisation during the years 1990-91.

SAIL contribution for earthquake victims of Uttar Pradesh

3457. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited has contributed a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs towards construction of a stadium in the District of Silchar, Assam; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has contributed Rs. 5 lakhs to the Relief Fund meant for earthquake victims of Uttarkashi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has contributed an amount of Rs. 12 lakhs for construction of one of the blocks of the stadium built by the District Sports Association, Silchar.

(b) Yes, Sir. SAIL has donated G. C. sheets valued at Rs. 5 lakhs towards relief work for the earthquake victims of Uttarkashi.

Iron ore mines in Orissa

3458. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for modernisation in different iron-ore mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), which is a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, has taken up modernisation programme of Bolani Iron Ore Mines in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crores so as to get better quality product. The scheme provides for setting up of an Iron Ore processing plant with facilities of washing of Iron Ore.

Mini steel Plant in Tripura

3459. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a mini steel plant of Rs. 155 crors Uptakhali, Tripura; and

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting Uptakhali for the purpose and the estimated annual production capacity of the proposed plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

लौह-अयस्क चूर्ण

3460. श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह ठाकुर: क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बस्तर में हजारों टन लौह अयस्क चूर्ण उन स्थलों पर पड़ा हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस सामग्री का उपयोग करने हेतु कोई संयंत्र लगाने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है, यदि हां, तो ऐसे संयंत्र के कब तक लग जाने की सम्भावना है?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) बैलाडिया लौह अयस्क की घरेलू मांग में वृद्धि होने से बैलाडिला में स्कंध-पुंज (स्टा वाइलड) लौह अयस्क चूरे का पहले ही सुधार किया जा रहा है और उसका उपयोग किया जा रहा है। बैलाडिला चूरे पर आधारित 40 लाख टन के पैलेट प्लांट की स्थापना करने का भी एक प्रस्ताव है।

Procurement of safety boots by SAIL

3461. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has formulated certain rules for procurement of safety boots with oil resistant components for workers of its Plants;

(b) whether the Steel Plants have been violating such rules resulting in growing discontent amongst workers of the Plants;

(c) whether it is a fact that no public sector unit has been included in the list of vendors for supply of such safety boots; and

(d) the details of pairs, cost thereof, source of the supplies, year of purchase of such safety boots purchased by each Plant of the SAIL during past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Almost all Public Sector Enterprises engaged in the manufacture/supply of leather goods are in the list of Vendors.

(d) It may not be in SAIL's commercial interests to divulge the details.

Steel infested with positive radioactivity

3462. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a truckload of steel exported by India in August, 1991 to USA, tested positive for radioactivity in Washington;

(b) whether the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission halted all steel shipments from India and ordered detailed inspection of all steel products imported from India; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Engineering Export Promotion Council has informed Government that some steel fencing material exported from India by two secondary sector units to USA tested positive for radioactivity.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of USA has desired that further shipments from the two units from India should be pre-inspected to ensure that no radioactive material is exported.